holdings and training of farmers and farm labourers including women.

v) Encouraging the use of organic manures which may provide an opportunity to recycle the farm wastes in a manner which will not only lower the cost of production but will sustain the agriculture production.

vi) Encouraging the use of soil ameliorants for improving soil health and soil productivity.

vii) Greater emphasis on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management Approach to control the pests and diseases in crops.

viii) More emphasis on the adoption of non-monetary inputs like timely sowing, maintaining optimum plant population, timely irrigation, efficient use of fertilisers, need based plant protection measures and timely harvesting of crops.

ix) Promoting a sense of competition among farmers for maximisation of cereals productivity.

Tender for Import of Sugar

2063. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have floated a tender for import of sugar this year;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the tenders have been floated at a time when the Indian companies which imported sugar during 1994 are trying to re-export that;

(d) if so, how much sugar has been re-exported during 1994 and uptil now giving the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent to which the decision to allow tender for import of sugar proved beneficial to the people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for the Public Distribution System in the event of sugar production not coming up to the expected level, have directed State Trading Corporation Ltd. and Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. to enter into forward contracts for purchase of about 5 lakh tonnes of imported sugar for July to September, 1995 deliveries. So far, a quantity of about 3.63 lakh tonnes has been contracted by State Trading Corporation Ltd. & Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. at an average price of US $ 428.25 per metric tonne C&FFO.

(c) and (d) When it came to the notice of the Government that certain traders were trying to re-export sugar imported by them under open General Licence, re-export of imported sugar was brought on the negative list of exports, subject to licensing. Subsequently, four applications received in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade for grant of export licences for re-export of imported sugar have been rejected.

(e) The sugar imported under forward contracts will be utilized for the Public Distribution System.